EVERYONE DESERVES ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS, NO MATTER THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS

Our government isn't living up to its responsibility to protect all New Yorkers.

The pandemic highlighted the role of essential workers, but these same workers are excluded from vital benefits that other workers enjoy, like access to a minimum wage and unemployment assistance. **The recent wave of new New Yorkers deserve to be welcomed as our new neighbors and community members.** We are fighting against misinformation that is pitting established immigrant communities against the most recent arrivals. New York has been built by immigrants, and there are more than enough resources for everyone. **No matter how long you've been here, an immigration status shouldn't be a green light for employers to ignore fundamental worker rights and safety** or for the **DOC (Department of Corrections) to share people's information with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement)**, fulfilling city efforts to detain and deport immigrants by passing Int. 214, Int. 395, and Int. 396.

Immigrant communities have long suffered from a lack of access to many of the privileges and opportunities afforded to other communities. This is why we must **implement initiatives such as the Unemployment Bridge Program (UBP) (S3192/A4821) and the EmPIRE Act (S541B/A90120** to guarantee all workers' rights. Through the EmPIRE Act, **workers' rights will be protected by deterring bad employers from stealing wages or benefits** and will raise 103 million dollars in new revenue for the state through fines. The Unemployment Bridge Program will create a **permanent statewide fund to provide relief to workers who cannot access unemployment insurance** when they lose work, including those who are undocumented and work in the cash economy. Everyone should be covered by these safety nets, regardless of their immigration status.